

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A fermented plant extract obtained by a method for ~~fermentation and culture~~ comprising the following steps of:

~~fermenting a material derived from an edible plant which contains a glucide whose major component is a polysaccharide, at about 37°C, said plant having a facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium by *Pantoea agglomerans* which lives in a symbiotic relationship exclusively with the plant; and~~

~~simultaneously culturing solely said facultative anaerobic gram-negative bacterium in a medium with neutral pH containing no component derived from an animal;~~

~~wherein said edible plant is selected from a food grain, a seaweed, a bean curd refuse, and a mixture thereof.~~

isolating *P. agglomerans* from wheat flour;

preparing a wheat flour preparation containing supplemental minerals;

adding the isolated *P. agglomerans* to the wheat flour preparation;

fermenting and culturing the wheat flour preparation at about 37°C; and

centrifuging the flour preparation to obtain the extract.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): Fermented plant extract powder obtained from the fermented plant extract according to claim 12.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical containing the fermented plant extract according to claim 12.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The fermented plant extract according to claim 12 which exhibits an ability of macrophage activation even with a presence of polymyxin B.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The fermented plant extract according to claim 12 which has an immunopotentiation activity.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A food containing the fermented plant extract according to claim 12.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A bath agent containing the fermented plant extract according to claim 12.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical containing the fermented plant extract powder according to claim 13.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A food containing the fermented plant extract powder according to claim 13.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A bath agent containing the fermented plant extract powder according to claim 13.

Claims 23-27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A composition containing the fermented plant extract according to claim 12.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A composition containing the fermented plant extract powder according to claim 13.

Claim 30-38 (Canceled)

Claim 39 (Currently Amended) A fermented plant extract obtained by a method ~~for fermentation and culture comprising steps of:~~

~~fermenting a solution of wheat flour treated with amylase by *Pantoea agglomerans*, and~~

~~simultaneously culturing solely in a medium containing no component derived from an animal.~~

isolating *P. agglomerans* from wheat flour;
preparing a wheat flour preparation containing supplemental minerals;
adding amylase to the wheat flour preparation;
adding the isolated *P. agglomerans* to the wheat flour preparation;
fermenting and culturing the wheat flour preparation; and
centrifuging the flour preparation to obtain the extract.

Claim 40 (withdrawn) A fermented plant extract obtained by a method for fermentation and culture comprising:

fermenting a solution containing bean curd refuse by *Pantoea agglomerans*, and
simultaneously culturing solely in a medium containing no component derived from an animal.

Claim 41 (withdrawn) A fermented plant extract obtained by a method for fermentation and culture comprising:

fermenting a solution containing rice powder by *Pantoea agglomerans*, and
simultaneously culturing solely in a medium containing no component derived from an animal.

Claim 42 (withdrawn) A fermented plant extract obtained by a method for fermentation and culture comprising:

fermenting a solution containing brown seaweed mekabu by *Pantoea agglomerans*, and
simultaneously culturing solely in a medium containing no component derived from an animal.